

Message Text

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PLEASE PASS TO NEJOHNSON NOAA, DR E BIERLY, NSF AND
DR A FLEIG, NASA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: WMO

SUBJECT: WMO/ICSU MEETINGS ON FIRST GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT
(FGGE) GENEVA, FEB 2-10, 1976

SUMMARY: MEETINGS MARKED CRITICAL POINT IN PLANNING
FOR MAJOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE,
COMMENCED AS CONSEQUENCE OF UN 18TH GA RESOLUTION 1721
(1961) ON INITIATIVE OF USA. COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES
TO PROGRAM BY 42 COUNTRIES LED TO CONCLUSION THAT
PREPARATIONS FOR EXPERIMENT FIELD PHASE DURING PERIOD
1978-79 SHOULD CONTINUE. DESPITE DIFFICULT WORLD
ECONOMIC SITUATION THAT HAS CAUSED SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN
EARLIER COMMITMENTS, MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES
NEEDED FOR EXPERIMENT ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROVIDED.
PARTICIPATION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL
OPEC MEMBERS IS ENCOURAGING NEW FACTOR.

1. FIRST OF TWO SUBJECT MEETINGS WAS INTERGOVERNMENTAL
PLANNING MEETING FOR FGGE ATTENDED BY 42 WMO MEMBERS
FROM FEB 2-6 AND CHAIRED BY DR A
NYBERG (SWEDEN). THE SECOND WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY
SESSION OF WMO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL FOR THE
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FGGE ESTABLISHED BY THE WMO EXCOMITE IN 1973.
PURPOSE WAS TO SECURE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES TO
CARRY OUT THIS GLOBAL EXPERIMENT, AND TO ASSESS
THE NATURE AND CONSEQUENCES OF REMAINING GAPS. PANEL

SERVES AS MANAGEMENT BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPERIMENT. IT REVIEWED THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE IN DETAIL AND TOOK A NUMBER OF DECISIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION TO IMPROVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXPERIMENT AND ITS FURTHER PLANNING. BOTH MEETINGS WERE ASSURED THAT THE SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES REMAINED UNCHANGED, THAT PROGRESSIVE WORK ON CONCEPTS DURING RECENT YEARS HAD BROUGHT NEW INSIGHTS INTO KEY ATMOSPHERIC PROCESSES, AND THAT THE ESSENTIAL TECHNOLOGIES AND MATHEMATICAL MODELS WERE NOW AVAILABLE.

2. STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL PLANS TO PROVIDE SPECIAL RESOURCES FOR EXPERIMENT WERE, ON THE WHOLE, ENCOURAGING EVEN THOUGH SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT GAPS REMAIN. COMMITMENTS TO THE VITAL SYSTEM OF FIVE GEOSTATIONARY AND FOUR POLAR ORBITING SATELLITES REMAIN FIRM. IRAQ ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO MAKE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO EXPERIMENT. DECISION ON AMOUNT WOULD BE MADE IN LIGHT OF RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS. IRAN HAS STARTED COOPERATION WITH FRANCE TO PRODUCE ELECTRONIC PACKAGES FOR CONSTANT LEVEL BALLOON SYSTEM. KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUPPORTING EXPERIMENT.

3. THE SEVERAL SPECIAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS NEEDED FOR PERIODS OF INTENSIVE OBSERVATIONS DURING 1979 ARE NOT YET FULLY ASSURED. REQUIREMENT FOR MORE INTENSIVE UPPER WIND OBSERVATIONS OVER TROPICS AND FOR REFERENCE LEVEL DATA AT SURFACE OVER OCEAN AREAS OF SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE STILL ARE NOT MET. ALMOST HALF OF REQUIRED TOTAL OF FIFTY OBSERVING SHIPS FOR TROPICS WERE TENTATIVELY OFFERED (10 BY USSR) AND MORE ARE EXPECTED IN SUPPORT OF OCEANOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS THAT ARE NOW IN PLANNING STAGE. CANADA IS PROCEEDING WITH PREPARATIONS TO PRODUCE FULLY TESTED DRIFTING BUOY FOR USE IN SOUTHERN OCEANS AND HOPES TO PROVIDE SOME 50 OF THESE BUOYS FROM ITS OWN FUNDS. THIS IS ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF UNCLASSIFIED

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CANADA'S PREVIOUS COMMITMENT. UK WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET ITS EARLIER COMMITMENT TO SHARE BUOY PROGRAM WITH CANADA, BUT FRANCE, NORWAY, NEW ZEALAND ARE EXPECTED TO ASSIST.

4. BOTH MEETINGS STRONGLY EMPHASIZED NEED FOR VIGOROUS ACTION TO IMPROVE AND ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF WORLD WEATHER WATCH OPERATIONAL SYSTEM. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE PROBLEM REGIONS, BUT THOSE PARTICIPATING SEEMED READY TO MAKE DETERMINED EFFORT. PRIORITY ACTION PROGRAM WAS OUTLINED THAT INCLUDES ESTABLISHMENT OF EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF WWW SYSTEM PERFORMANCE. KEY NEW RESOURCES WERE IDENTIFIED, INCLUDING NEED FOR

SECONDED EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE DEFICIENCIES IN OPERATION OF WWW SYSTEM. USA SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PARTICIPATING IN THIS EFFORT.

5. DUE COMPLEX NATURE OF OBSERVING AND DATA PROCESSING SYSTEMS FOR FGGE, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME ADOPTED, WITH TOP LEVEL REVIEW BOARD SET UP UNDER JOINT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (JOC) FOR GARP. COORDINATING BODIES WERE PROPOSED FOR EACH MAJOR SPECIAL OBSERVING SYSTEM. MEETING IDENTIFIED OTHER FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTROL OF THE EXPERIMENT AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TESTS OF ALL SYSTEMS AND SUB-SYSTEMS THAT WILL BE INVOLVED, THESE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ADVANCE OF FIELD PHASE OF EXPERIMENT.

6. THE MEETINGS EXAMINED THE SCIENTIFIC PLAN FOR MONEX AND CONCLUDED THAT DETAILED PLANNING FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC STAFF COULD BE SECONDED BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO A SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP WORKING FULL TIME ON THIS SUB-PROGRAM. SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO PROPOSALS FOR WEST AFRICAN MONSOON EXPERIMENT (WAMEX), AS A VALUABLE ADDITION TO REGIONAL STUDIES UNDER FGGE, WHICH WOULD ALSO SERVE AS FURTHER INCENTIVE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WWW SYSTEMS IN THAT PART OF GLOBE. THERE WAS FULL AGREEMENT, NEVERTHELESS, THAT FIRST PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE GLOBAL ASPECTS OF FGGE. A SCIENTIFIC PLAN FOR POLEX WAS STILL REQUIRED.

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7. OCEANOGRAPHIC INTEREST IS INCREASING, WITH IOC AND SCOR HAVING TAKEN MAJOR PART IN DEVELOPMENT OF FGGE RELATED PROGRAMS. IOC'S PROGRAMS IN CENTRAL WEST INDIAN OCEAN, ITS STUDY OF EL NINO PHENOMENA, ITS SURVEYS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEANS, AND THE IGOSS PROGRAM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO FGGE DATA. OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSELS TAKING PART IN THESE PROGRAMS WILL NEED TO BE EQUIPPED TO MAKE UPPER AIR SOUNDINGS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OPERATING IN THE TROPICS AND THE SOUTHERN OCEANS. MEETING NOTED THAT SCOR WORKING GROUP 47 NOW REVIEWING ITS OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS WITH VIEW OF CLOSER INTERGRATION TO FGGE ATMOSPHERIC STUDIES, TO MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH. A MEETING TO COORDINATE AND OPTIMIZE SHIP OBSERVATIONS IS PLANNED FOR LATE 1976.

8. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS MADE TOWARD RESOLVING PROBLEM OF SPECIAL CENTER REQUIRED FOR COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF DELAYED DATA. NEWLY-ESTABLISHED EUROPEAN CENTER FOR MEDIUM RANGE WEATHER FORECASTS (ECMWF) WILLING TO ACCEPT KEY ROLE IF ITS GOVERNING COUNCIL AGREES. THIS SOLUTION NOW POSSIBLE AS CONSEQUENCE OF CREATION

OF AREA SUB-CENTERS TO COLLECT DELAYED WWW DATA. USA ASKED TO ACCEPT SUB-CENTER ROLE FOR NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA AREAS. USSR CONTINUES TO PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES, WITH USSR ROLE SIGNIFICANT BUT INCOMPLETE. ONE FACTOR BEHIND THEIR PROPOSAL IS APPARENT USSR RELUCTANCE TO RECOGNIZE ECMWF. MEETING AGREED TO SEEK COMMITMENT FOR ALL TASKS BEFORE FGGE DATA MANAGEMENT MEETING IN MAY 1976, WHEN ONE OF TWO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES MUST BE SELECTED. STRONG PRESSURE ON USA TO SECOND PERSONNEL TO A SPECIAL PURPOSE CENTER AT ECMWF, SO AS TO RELIEVE FINANCIAL PRESSURE FACILITATING FAVORABLE DECISION BY IST GOVERNING COUNCIL.

9. MEETING CLOSED ON OPTIMISTIC NOTE THAT PLANNING SHOULD PROCEED AT FULL SPEED, AND RENEWED EFFORTS MADE WITH ALL MEMBERS OF WMO TO ENSURE THE REMAINDER OF RESOURCES IN ORDER TO COMMENCE BUILD UP PHASE OF EXPERIMENT IN 1977. EXCELLENT SUMMARY OF STATE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PLANNING AND MAJOR NEEDS STILL UNFULLILLED PREPARED BY PROFESSOR STEWART, CH. OF JOC BEING FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM. BRUNGART

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